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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LANDER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM RECEIVES \$5,000 GRANT
TO FUND OUTREACH PROGRAM**

LANDER, WY – The Lander Children's Museum has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Tom and Helen Tonkin Foundation for its new Outreach Program. The Outreach Program will bring hands-on, interactive activities correlated to Wyoming Content Standards into area classrooms. Teachers may check out trunks related to specific content areas in math, science, social studies, and world cultures. In addition, the museum's Outreach Coordinator will offer teacher trainings to assist teachers who wish to provide more inquiry-based, experiential learning opportunities for their students.

The Lander Children's Museum is a nonprofit organization serving Fremont County and west central Wyoming with hands-on, inquiry based educational activities and exhibits for children of all ages. The Museum is open to the public year-round and serves over 3,500 visitors per year.

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The Tonkin grant will be used to offset a portion of the payroll expense associated with the Outreach Program. This will give the museum an opportunity to work more closely with schools in Fremont County during the 2009-10 school year.

“The Outreach Program has been a long-term goal of the Museum Board of Trustees since its founding in 1999. Having an Outreach Coordinator to work directly with area school districts will provide long-term benefits to students and teachers as education requirements continue to become more standardized and rigorous,” said Jennifer O’Connor, museum director. “It’s very exciting to finally have the opportunity to offer this service to our rural school districts.”

For more information about the Lander Children’s Museum or the Outreach Program, please contact Jennifer O’Connor at (307) 332-1341.

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